(iii) To draw a road map and a time-frame, (e) No specific time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

National Policy for Senior Citizens

3156. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Policy for Senior Citizens;

(b) the details of various schemes implemented so far for the welfare of Senior Citizens under the National Policy on Senior Citizens by the Ministry, State-wise;

(c) the details of various concessions provided to Senior Citizens of our country by the Union Government and the States;

(d) the details of measures taken so far in running institutions most effectively and efficiently like "Home for the Aged" funded by the Union Government and States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The National Policy on Older Persons includes healthcare and nutrition, shelter/housing, protection of life and property and welfare of the elderly.

(b) The Ministry is implementing two grant-in-aid schemes namely, an Integrated Programme for Older Persons and the Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons.

(c) The details of various concessions are given in the Statement. (See Below).

(d) State Governments have been requested to send complete proposals and ensure regular inspections. Ministry also conducts inspections from time to time to oversee that the schemes are implemented effectively.

Statement

Concessions and facilities given to Senior Citizens by different Ministries/Departments of the Government

SI. No	Name of the Ministry/ Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the Senior Citizens. It has anounced the National Policy on Older Persons covering all concerns pertaining to the welfare of older persons, the National Policy on Older Persons recognizes a person aged 60 years and above as a senior citizen. 2. The Ministry Is also implementing following schemes for the benefit of Senior Citizens. (i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons (Plan Scheme)— This Scheme has been formulated by revising the earlier scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Welfare of the Aged". Under this Scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. (ii) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for constructions of Old Age Homes/Multi-Service Centres for older persons (Non Plan Scheme) Under this Scheme, one time construction grant for Old Age Homes/MultiService Centre is provided to non-governmental organisations on the recommendation of the State Governments/UT Administrations.
2.	Ministry of Finance	(i) Income tax rebate upto an income of Rs. 1.85 lakh pa. (ii) Higher rates of interest on saving schemes of senior citizens in comparison with others. (iii) Higher rate of interest of 9% on the deposits made by the senior citizens under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme.
3.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and State Governments/ U.T.Admns.	(i) Reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings. (ii) Some State Governments are giving fare concession to senior citizens in the State Road Transport Undertaking Buses. (iii) Delhi Government has introducd High Capacity Buses which have low floor and have reserved space for wheel

1	2	3
		. chairs as per international standards on experimental basis.
		(iv) Government of Maharashtra/BEST has planned to procure 30 disabled friendly buses with convenient easy boarding/ alighting facilities.
4	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Separate queues for older persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination.
5.	Ministry of Railways	(i) Indian Railways provide 30% fare concession in all Mail/ Express including Rajdhani/Shatabadi/Jan Shatabadi trains for senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
		(ii) Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/cancellation of tickets.
		(iii) Wheel chairs for use of older persons are available at all junctions, District Headquarters and other important stations for the convenience of needy persons including the older persons.
		(iv) Ramps for wheel chairs movement are available at the entry to important stations.
		(v) Specially designed coaches with provisions of space for wheel chairs, hand rail and specially designed toilet for handicapped persons have been introduced on experimental basis.
6	Ministry of Civil Aviation	(i) Indian Airlines is providing 50 per cent Senior Citizen Discount on Normal Economcy Class fare for all domestic flights to Indian Senior Citizens who have completed the age of 65 years in the case of male senior citizens and 63 years in the case of female senior citizens subject to certain conditions.
		(ii) Air India is offering discount to Senior Citizens of 60 plus on flights to certain routes. Further, Air India has now decided to reduce the age of 60 plus for discount on their domestic routes as well with immediate effect.
7	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution/State Governments/U.T. Admns.	(i) Under the Antyodaya Scheme, the below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which also include older persons, are provided food grains at the rate of 35 kg. per family per month. The food grains are issued @ Rs.3/ per kg. for rice and Rs. *21*- per kg. for wheat and persons aged 60 years and above from the BPL category were given priority for identification.
		(ii) State Governments are instructed to give priority to the Ration Card holders who are over 60 years of age in Fair Price Shops for issue of rations.

1	2	3
8.	Department of Telecommunications	(i) Complaints of senior citizens are registered under senior citizens category with VIP flag, which is a priority category. (ii) Senior citizens are allowed to register telephone connection under N-OYT Special Category, which is a priority category.
9	Ministry of Rural Development/State Governments/UT. Admns.	(i) Under Old Age Pension Scheme, which is a component of the National Social Assistance Programme, monthly pension is given at variable rates to the destitute elderly by various State Governments/UT Administrations. (ii) Under the Annapoorna Scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administration, 10kg. of foodgrains per beneficiary per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who remain uncovered under the old age pension scheme.
10.	MCD, Delhi	(i) MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter to facilitate the senior citizens for submission of property tax bills. (ii) A rebate of 30% of the property tax due on the covered space of a building up to one hundred sq. mtrs. of the covered space has been allowed by the corporation in the case of any self-occupied residential building singly owned by a man who is 65 years or more in age.
11.	Miscellaneous	(i) Courts in the country accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Report of Safai Karmachari Andolan on scavengers

3157. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report was submitted quite recently in the Supreme Court by Safai Karamachari Andolan that the human scavengers strength has increased to 8 lakhs;

(b) if so, the details of the Supreme Court's orders;

(c) the details of action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether a law was enacted in 1993, banning human scavenging throughout the country;

(e) if so, the number of employers prosecuted, fined and convicted, State-wise as on date for engaging human scavengers in violation of the law banning human scavenging; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?